

## MEXICO.

## IMPORTANT NEWS.

## THE TROUBLE ON THE RIO GRANDE

## Full Account of the Attack on Matamoros.

## The Streets of the City Baricaded.

## An Imperial Gunboat Fired Into from the American Side.

## LIBERALS RECRUITING IN TEXAS.

## The Imperialists Fearful of a War with the United States.

## Two French War Steamers on the Rio Grande.

## The Liberals Fighting in United States Uniforms.

## Arrival at Kansas City of a Bearer of Despatches from Juarez to the United States Government.

## The long expected attack upon Matamoros by the liberal forces was commenced on the 25th of October, as already mentioned in the HERALD.

The liberals, under the command of General Escobedo, had concentrated in considerable force in the neighborhood of Camargo, situated about seventy miles up the river from Matamoros, and on the 14th of October a general movement was made; but the progress of the troops was not as rapid as expected, owing to the unfavorable condition of the roads from heavy rain.

## DEFENSIVE PREPARATIONS.

General Mejia, commanding the imperial forces, received information of the advance not long after it had been ordered, and at once set to work to take all necessary defensive measures, in which he was energetically aided by the local authorities. The imminence of an assault took few by surprise, for the republican forces had been increasing in numbers in the vicinity for some time past. In fact, the city has at all times and on all occasions been in a state of siege during the last two months, no communication having been had by the inhabitants with the interior, except during the movements of large bodies of imperial soldiers. The superior officers of the attacking army numbered some of the best of the republican generals, including Espinosa and Cortina, and the rank and file had undoubtedly been lately reinforced by large accessions of American soldiers.

## STANDFIRE OF FOREIGN RESIDENTS TO BROWNSVILLE.

When it became evident, from the throwing up of earthworks and other military preparations, that the city was in almost hourly danger of an attack, a general exodus of the foreign residents to Brownsville, on the opposite side of the river, at once took place. Care was taken by the authorities that this exodus should not appear too precipitate, in the fear that it might produce a pernicious moral effect upon the forces stationed in the city and its defenses. Many of the refugees are desirous to find transportation to New Orleans or points in the interior; meanwhile every inhabitable corner in Brownsville is crowded to excess.

## THE POSITION OF MATAMOROS.

Matamoros is a fortified position, situated as it is on a neck of land formed by a sinuosity of the river, and protected by a line of forts extending from side to side. All the buildings in the vicinity of the city likely to give cover to the assailants were destroyed, and the underground on the level of the city was destroyed. Access on one side is prevented by an impassable marsh, called a laguna, and on the other by a line of forts, which consist of a few narrow roads, were at once strongly fortified, and artillery posted in commanding positions.

## A STATE OF SIEGE DECLARED.

On October 15 General Mejia issued an order declaring the towns of Matamoros and Bagdad in a state of siege. The latter place is situated below Matamoros, at the mouth of the Rio Grande. Organizations were at once got up for the defense of the town, and daily arms and cartridges of life and property. On the 25th of October the effective force in the beleaguered city was estimated at fifteen hundred men, while the liberals were reported to be fully three thousand strong, exclusive of volunteers, of whom a large number had recently joined. A reinforcement of between two hundred and three hundred men had, however, arrived at Matamoros from Bagdad during the night of the 25th, and further reinforcements of greater numerical strength were expected from other quarters.

## THE IMPERIALISTS SUMMONED TO SURRENDER.

On the 25th, early in the forenoon, a flag of truce approached the city, accompanied by Colonel Roche, an old Mexican soldier, as the representative of General Escobedo. The white flag was received with all respect, and the Colonel conducted to General Mejia's headquarters under the restrictions usual in such embassies. This peaceful overture turned out to be a courteous but preliminary summons to surrender the city and garrison to General Escobedo, in order to spare the shedding of blood in fratricidal strife. To this demand General Mejia promptly sent answer that he rejected the proposition. The flag of truce party during their short stay within the imperial lines were treated with all the consideration and courtesy compatible with martial etiquette.

## THE ATTACK.

During the night of the 26th a desultory firing occurred along the line, and at an early hour the following morning it had grown into sharp musketry volleys, accompanied every now and then by artillery. Even before daylight the banks of the river were crowded with curious persons who had been attracted by the anticipation of witnessing the attack, although far off. At about eight o'clock in the morning the liberals made a general assault upon the imperial line at all points, and so rapid and vigorous was the attack that it came very near being a surprise. According to one report General Escobedo did not intend a bona fide assault, but merely a series of feints, in order to ascertain the enemy's strength and position. General Hinojosa, however, who had command of the force south of the city, ordered his men to advance upon a fort in his front. Led by a number of Americans, this force dashed over the earthworks, driving the imperialists back, and capturing their guns and caissons before they were fairly sensible of the presence of an enemy. The capture had not been long in possession of the fort before the imperial gunboat *Palmas*, lying in the river, within range, opened upon them, and as General Hinojosa had no support he was obliged to withdraw. After getting his men out of reach of the gunboat's missiles, a brisk alternating fight took place between the contending forces, lasting nearly two hours. In the dusk on the fort General Hinojosa was wounded in the leg while gallantly leading his men over the earthworks.

## AMERICAN SOLDIERS FIRED ON BY AN IMPERIAL GUNBOAT.

While General Hinojosa's men were under the fire of the imperial gunboat several shots came in the neighborhood of a party of Americans who were engaged in the work of fortification.

## THE WAR ON THE RIO GRANDE.

## Scene of the Recent Movements of the Liberal and Imperialist Forces.

## THE LIBERAL WOUNDED CAPED FOR BY THE UNITED STATES FORCES.

## While the attack was being made below the city a strong force assaulted the forts on the northern side; but a falling fire from the gunboat Antonio forced them to fall back out of range.

## In the afternoon of the same day twenty-five of the liberal wounded soldiers were transferred to Brownsville, where they were cared for by the United States surgeon at that point.

## In compliance with a request from General Escobedo, General Weitzel supplied the wounded republicans, for which attention General Escobedo called upon the American commander and thanked him in person.

## During their brief interview Escobedo stated that he was determined to take Matamoros at any cost.

## The losses of the imperialists are reported to have been very heavy considering the short space of time that the fight lasted.

## According to one account no less than twenty-five cart loads of their wounded were brought into Matamoros after the fight.

## It is evident that the city cannot be taken without a desperate struggle.

## The leading streets, and especially the Plaza, or central square, are barricaded with piles of pressed hay, cotton, &amp;c.

## This work has been done by a home guard organization numbering seven hundred or eight hundred citizens, and consisting mainly of French residents. They have no Americans on their roll.

## ADVANCE OF THE LIBERAL LINES.

## Under cover of night the liberal forces advanced their lines on the 27th to within two hundred yards of the imperial outer works and rifle pits, where they entrenched themselves so skillfully that an attempt made to drive them out of their works on the following morning failed completely, the imperialists being obliged to retire in haste.

## THE CONSPIRACY TO BETRAY THE CITY TO THE LIBERALS.

## On the 22d of October, three days before the attack on Matamoros, a plot was discovered to betray the city and garrison to the liberals, and the same day the leading traitor, a Captain Ghilgen, being in the imperial contra guerrilla corps and late of the rebel army, was arrested, convicted and executed.

## His principal accomplice, named Burch, also an American, was arrested at the same time, but managed to escape.

## The plot included the assassination of General Mejia. Fifty-five thousand dollars was the price for the traitors had consented to betray the place and murder their commanding officer.

## Early on the 28th the republicans commenced to shell the city with a rifled field battery which they had posted facing the forts on the north side and masked by a belt of underground. Several shells struck in the leading streets of the city, but without doing any great damage.

## The battery was eventually silenced by a heavy fire from the forts.

## The same day a demonstration on the south side of the city was repulsed by a body of imperial cavalry after a sharp skirmish.

## The Matamoros Republican (imperial organ) of November 10 states that there now exist no apprehension of another liberal attack upon the city, as not a single republican soldier had been seen for three days within five miles distance.

## The only force heard of was a small band under Cortina.

## THE IMPERIAL GUNBOAT ANTONIO FIRED INTO FROM THE AMERICAN SIDE OF THE RIVER.

Under the same date the *Ranchero* says:—The imperial gunboat Antonio, having on board a detachment of French marines and two field pieces, while forcing her way up the river under a heavy fire from the combined forces of the liberals, grounded seven miles below the city, and while engaged with the enemy, on the Mexican side of the river, a furious fire at long range was opened on the steamer from the American bank, which was effective in wounding two of the marines.

## The liberals on the north bank of the river were dressed in the United States uniform.

## The French commander refrained from returning the fire received from the Texas bank of the river.

The *Ranchero* adds:—It appears to be the settled purpose of the same men to bring on a war between the United States and Mexico. These outlaws have been on the American side of the river in force, where their officers were busy in enlisting recruits.

## The Antonio was fired upon from the Texas shore, near where Cortina had been encamped.

## The particulars of the correspondence between General Weitzel and General Mejia relating to the firing from the American side of the Rio Grande upon the imperial gunboat Antonio, and to the sympathy shown by the Americans for the liberals, have not yet transpired.

## The participation of American soldiers in the assault upon Matamoros is reported to have created considerable alarm at Mexico city among the members of Maximilian's Cabinet and his French military advisers.

## Notwithstanding that the reason assigned for the abandonment of his long projected journey to Yucatan is the necessity of his presence at the capital, in order to carry out the various "suggestions" conveyed to him by Mr. Lagrange—the lately arrived financial and consular secretary of Louis Napoleon—a little logical reflection will suffice to show that apprehensions of American intervention really determined his relinquishment of the journey.

## Letters from Mexico city relate that a bit of gossip was current in the capital to the effect that at a late interview between Maximilian and Marshal Bazaine the Emperor declared his intention to make the journey to Yucatan, so as not to disappoint his new subjects, who had made such elaborate preparations to welcome him on the way.

## The Marshal used every argument to dissuade him, but in vain; whereupon he spoke out decisively:—"Very well, your Majesty; but if you go to Yucatan I shall go back to France." Considering that if Bazaine were to leave he would probably take his troops with him, Max. prudently concluded to remain in his capital, allowing the Emperor to represent him in Yucatan.

## As it is, the present situation of Franco-Mexico-American affairs on the Rio Grande requires the gravest attention of Maximilian and his advisers, civil as well as military.

## THE LATEST NEWS.

## NEW ORLEANS, Nov. 27, 1865.

The Times has advices from Vera Cruz of the 14th inst., which say:—

Everything is unsettled in Mexico. General distrust prevails. Business is paralyzed. Maximilian's power is daily lessening. Puebla has been selected as the base of supplies of the imperial army, and has been strongly garrisoned by Austrian troops. The roads continue unsafe, and robberies are almost hourly committed. The country is in a deplorable state. There is no business, nor is there security for anything.

Orizaba has been strongly fortified in anticipation of an attack by the liberals. Cordova has been abandoned, and all the war material there removed to the interior.

Judge Perkins, General Price and Governor Allen are sanguine of success in their colonization scheme.

The reception of the Emperor along the route to Yucatan was quite tame, except at Vera Cruz, where the demonstrations were enthusiastic. Her Majesty would leave for Yucatan on the 16th. Reinforcements to the extent of fourteen hundred men arrived at Vera Cruz on the 12th, and more were expected. The liberals were actively concentrating at all points.

## The Washington Dispatch.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27, 1865.

The government has received no intelligence contradictory of the recently published exciting reports from the Rio Grande, involving our troops with the French.

All the volunteer troops in central Texas have been paid, preliminary to their places being supplied by regulars.

## A Bearer of Despatches from Juarez to the United States Government.

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 27, 1865.

Colonel Bravo, of the liberal army in Mexico, and bearer of despatches from Juarez to the United States

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General W. W. Morris, so long connected with the Department of Maryland, and one of the oldest graduates of West Point now living, is lying dangerously ill at Fort Monroe.

## THE LATE GALES.

## Loss of the Ship Panama.

## STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN HANSEN.

We lost New York October 12, with a cargo of salt, sugar, hay and liquor, bound for Galveston, Texas. Nothing of importance occurred until the 23d of October. At about eight o'clock on that morning, while off the Great Isaac, a hurricane set in. The ship at the time was running under close reefed topsails, but the sails were soon blown away. The wind then hailed to south-southwest and southwest, when the ship laid to under bare poles, with the bulwarks and half the deck under water. There was a very heavy sea running, and we drifted towards the Grand Bahama. At half-past two A. M. on the 24th we saw white water, and immediately let go the port anchor. When we had paid out fifty fathoms the chain parted, and we drifted on to the rocks about a quarter of a mile to the southward of Memory Rocks. When the stars and rugged struck we cut away the masts to prevent the hull from breaking to pieces. At ten A. M. we tried to launch the boats, but they were immediately stove in by the breakers. We had now no boats, and saw no signs of assistance near at hand. The captain then proposed to the officers and crew to cut of the deck house about four feet below the roof, and use it as a raft. The roof was twenty feet long by nine wide, and the men set to work to cut it off. By five P. M. the roof was off and ready for launching; but the sea was so high and the wreck still hanging together it was concluded to stay on it till morning. Blue lights and flash lights were burned all night to attract attention if any vessel should be in the neighborhood; and about ten A. M. of the 25th, there being as yet no sign of assistance, we launched the deck house and embarked. We had nineteen persons in all, including Mrs. Hansen; and we took with us a barrel of rice, two hams and a bag of water. My intention was to reach Sandy Key, a small island about twenty-five miles to the southward; but the wind and current kept us away, and after drifting some eighty-five miles, the waves repeatedly washing over and compelling us to be continually bailing out our launch, until eleven P. M. of the 26th, we were picked up by four lifeboats from the Bahama Islands. We were then drifting as the sun was setting, and the boats were sent to our relief. The next day, after landing, I engaged a couple of wreckers and visited the wreck. Found part of the hull gone, but they saved about fourteen hundred dollars' worth of cargo. The men throughout the entire struggle behaved finely and with perfect coolness, understanding their dangerous situation and doing everything as calmly as possible and without confusion, obeying the directions of Captain Hansen with perfect willingness, and thereby, as the event has shown, saving the lives of all on board.

## Our Forts Monroe Correspondence.

PORTSMOUTH MONITOR, Nov. 26, 1865.

Reports begin to come in showing that the late storm was not altogether devoid of disaster. Two schooners, the C. M. News and one in the Coast Survey service, have been towed in here. The Thomas Koles reports having seen, in her downing trip from Baltimore, a schooner capsized near Smith Point light. It was pretty rough yesterday outside. The steamer Ann Martin stranded up the bay, but was obliged to turn back on account of the heavy sea.

## Obituary.

DR. WILLIAM IRVING, CONSUL AT AMOY, CHINA.

A telegram from Harpersburg announces the death in August last, at Amoy, China, of Dr. William Irving, American Consul at that place, and a well known and distinguished physician of Harpersburg. He was appointed Consul to Amoy in 1864, and arrived in the country about the time of the appearance of the cholera there. He devoted himself to the practice of his profession among the Chinese, and being unaccustomed fell a victim to the disease which he had been successfully treating in others.

## Personal Intelligence.

General W. W. Morris, so long connected with the Department of Maryland, and one of the oldest graduates of West Point now living, is lying dangerously ill at Fort Monroe.

## THE WEST INDIA SQUADRON.

Admiral Folger has received information regarding the command of the West India squadron, which is now being formed.

## WASHINGTON.

## The President's Forthcoming Message and His Reconstruction Policy.

## No List of Members of the House of Representatives Yet Prepared by the Clerk.

## Mustering Out of Troops in the Department of Virginia.

## Massachusetts and Her Alleged Prussian Recruits.

## Assembling of the United States and Colombia Commission.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27, 1865.

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

As the session of Congress approaches much speculation and solicitude exist among the radicals concerning the President's forthcoming message. Many profess to believe that his reconstruction policy has disappointed their expectations, and that he will renounce it to a considerable extent and recommend more stringent measures. There are the strongest reasons for asserting that these gentlemen are reckoning without their host. The President has at no time and on no occasion uttered a word in public expressing the slightest disappointment at the practical workings of his policy, or intimated the least inclination of modifying or changing it in any particular. On the contrary, he has uniformly declared more progress was being made than any one would have been warranted in predicting a few months ago. In some instances the organized action of Southern men may not have met his expectations; but this is no reason for abandoning his favorite idea that States are indestructible, and that secession under our form of government was, and forever must be impossible. He will undoubtedly reiterate in his message the principles that underlie all his public utterances for years, and thereby bring to his support the entire conservative element of Congress, without regard to party affiliations.

## THE ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—POSITION OF THE CLERK.

On inquiry it is ascertained that but comparatively few of the credentials of members elected to the House of Representatives have been received either from the late insurrectionary or the other States. Therefore the Clerk of the House has not prepared a list of the members, and will not probably do so before Saturday. No credentials have been received from the late insurrectionary States excepting from Virginia in part and Tennessee complete. The position of the Clerk of the House is understood to be as follows: That he is merely to administer the law of 1863 in placing the names of members elected upon the roll, his course on doubtful points being controlled by the precedents set by the House in the absence of judicial ruling as to the construction of the law. Whatever defects may be discovered can of right be remedied by the House. In addition to the validity and formality of the credentials, should these facts appear, the only question which could occur would be whether the States lately in rebellion are now in full relation to the other States in the sense contemplated by the law of 1863; or, in different language, whether they are completely restored to their rights and privileges in the Union. The question as to whether certain members elect can or cannot take the oath will not properly occur until after the election of the Speaker, whose duty it is to administer it to the other members before proceeding further on the business of organization.

## THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

The Secretary of the Treasury makes no secret of the fact that his forthcoming report on the finances will be merely an enlargement of the views recently presented in his Fort Wayne speech.

## ARRIVAL OF CONGRESSMEN.

Among the Congressmen arrived to-day are C. W. Anderson, of Missouri; Senator John H. Stockton, of New Jersey; Colonel Sullivan, of Indiana, and S. W. Milton and E. M. Brownell, of Illinois.

## TROOPS TO BE MUSTERED OUT IN GENERAL TERRY'S COMMAND.

The President is relieving Virginia from military rule as fast as possible. In obedience to a recent order from the War Department, the following organizations in General Terry's command will be mustered out:—Sixty-seventh Ohio, Eighth and Eleventh Connecticut, One Hundred and Eighty-eighth Pennsylvania, Second New Hampshire, Forty-first and One Hundred and Third New York, Thirty-ninth Illinois, Company A, First Loyal East Virginia, and the Ninth Vermont battalions. All the officers and men of these regiments on detached service will go out with them.

## CLAIMS AGAINST COLOMBIA.

The commission between the United States and Colombia was inaugurated to-day by the appearance of Colonel Bullitt for the United States and General Salazar for Colombia, with Sir Frederick Bruce, the British Minister, as umpire. The first case argued was that of August Fretz, who owned the Ocean House, near the Panama Railroad depot, and which was destroyed by the mob in April, 1865. His loss was about three thousand dollars. Mr. Fretz is now dead, but his heirs claim this amount. It was objected that the case was not before the commission under the treaty, as it could not take jurisdiction of a claim when the claimant was domiciled in New Granada. Mr. J. M. Carlisle, for Colombia, argued that Fretz's ownership of the hotel domiciled him at Panama. Mr. S. Cox argued that Fretz never lost his domicile except by simply owning the hotel; that residence was required to make domicile; that Fretz never resided in Panama, and further, that by the treaty of 1846 he had acquired protection as a citizen of the United States. The argument consumed the afternoon, and involves other cases. The acceptance by Sir Frederick Bruce of the umpireship is a tender of good will from his nation to ours, interested as both are in the protection of the isthmus route.

## INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED RECRUITING FRAUDS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

To-day the military commission, composed of Generals Hitchcock, Nott and Seth Williams, met and organized. This commission is ordered to investigate certain frauds alleged to have been committed at Boston, Mass., by agents who, by fraud and misrepresentation, induced and forced German emigrants to enter our army as substitutes. The commission will probably in a short time, move to Boston, where it will hear the evidence of witnesses.

## RELEASED FROM THE OLD CAPITOL PRISON.

Robert Beth, committed to the Old Capitol with Taylor, for appropriating to their own use about twenty thousand dollars of the specie belonging to the rebel government, and which fell into their hands after the capture of Richmond, was this morning released from the Old Capitol by order of the Secretary of War.

## APPLICATIONS FOR PARDON.

R. M. T. Hunter and the rebel Brigadier General Roane, of Arkansas, were at the Attorney General's office to-day urging their claims for pardon.

Colonel Myers, son-in-law to General Twigg, formerly Assistant Quartermaster of United States Army, and late rebel Quartermaster General, has been here supplicating for pardon, but left with a sea in his ear. He is the officer who wrote from Rebeldom that "General McClellan was the only gentleman in the Federal army."

## THE FIFTY-TWO CONVERSION BONDS.

The Treasury Department is delivering the bonds of the fifty millions of the fifty